(b) if so, what are comparative figures;

(c) what is their trend; and

(d) what urgent steps are being taken to maintain their strength?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Census for Tiger in Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserve was due in 2001, but the same could not be done due to early rains. The census figures for both the Reserve during 1995 and 1997 are as follows:

S. No.	Major Wildlife Species	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve		Sariska Tiger Reserve	
		1995	1997	1995	1997
1.	Tiger	38	32	25	24
2.	Leopard	63	79	46	49
3.	Sambar	3419	2939	4800	5600
4.	Chital	4849	4496	2900	2900
5.	Nilgai	2648	1946	4300	4780
6.	Wild Boar	1825	1936	2600	2900

(d) Studies and observation suggest that there is no declining trend in the population of wild animals including tigers in these reserves. The management and development works are being carried out regularly for the betterment of the parks.

Death of two lionesses in Gir Forest

2784. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of two lionesses outside the Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat was reported in June, 2001;

(b) if so, the causes of death enquired into; and

(c) the action proposed to develop a new habitat for lions, to ease congestion in the Gir Forest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat has reported that two dead bodies of lionesses were found in the river bed of Drafad river during June, 2001. After postmortem the cause of death could not be ascertained due

to autolysis and putrification of the dead bodies as they remained in water for more than 72 hours.

(c) Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is being developed as a second home for Asiatic Lion. Rs. 8.00 crores has been released so far for relocation of villagers outside the Kuno Palpur Sanctuary.

US opposition to India's exemption from Kyoto Protocol

2785. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) has come down heavily on the comments made by the US that India should not be exempted from the Kyoto Protocol, as it was one of the top ten polluters of the world;

(b) whether the Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted in 1997, required developed countries to reduce their emission levels of six green house gases by at least five per cent, which has not been accepted by the USA; and

(c) if so, what has been Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government does not support any change in the existing balance of commitments between developed and developing countries and has opposed introduction of any new commitment.

Multi-colour rains in Kerala

2786. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strange phenomena of pouring of multi-colour rains in Kerala recently;

(b) if so, whether any expert study or research has been conducted on the said phenomena; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a)Yes, Sir. Reports of occurrence of rains of different shades of red have been noticed in Kerala.